

Rangitoto College - Community Newsletter

Important Community Information	Date
Dental Planet onsite	21 September - 9 October
Library Week	21- 25 September
Year 9 Special Assembly (9am, auditorium)	21 September
Year 10 Special Assembly (9am, auditorium)	22 September
Year 11 Special Assembly (9am, auditorium)	23 September
Year 12 Special Assembly (9am, auditorium)	24 September
Diwali Celebration – Festival of Lights (6pm, auditorium)	24 September
Year 13 Special Assembly (9am, auditorium)	25 September
Final Day of Term 3	25 September

Principal's Update

Teenaa koutou ki a koutou katoa, nga iwi katoa o te ao. Nau mai ki te Wiki o te Reo Maaori. This newsletter aligns with Maaori language week and so today I will bring in a whakatauki that you will see referenced throughout this newsletter. *Ko te pae tawhiti whaaia kia tata, ko te pae tata, whakamaua kia tina.*

Seek out distant horizons until they are close, and those that are close, hold them fast.

I think that in today's newsletter you will see that in action through the capturing of the Winter Tournament Week. Students, staff and coaches have set significant goals over years of involvement in sport. We are sharing with you today stories of success from across the week that we know students will hold close to them for many years to come. It is also a relevant perspective as we end our senior examinations and CAAs and students begin their final preparations for the end-of-year exams. These distant horizons of academic achievements that our students have been pursuing are getting nearer and I want to wish them all the best as they engage with the feedback from staff, work hard on their revision and move closer to realising their goals. The academic success that we anticipate they will achieve as a result of their years of learning and this final preparation will provide for incredible opportunities for them as they continue into the workforce, or further study pathways. This is something that they can deservedly hold close to them and value as a great reflection of their years of hard work.

Finally, I wanted to provide an explanation for the double vowels today, instead of the macron. This is a language convention that reflects my time in the Waikato where Tainui have adopted the use of the double vowel in place of the macron. Just a bit of language trivia for Maaori Language Week.

Kia pai oo raa whakataa - Have a good weekend.

Winter Tournament Week Results

Winter Tournament Week is a pinnacle event on the school calendar. This year, our Rangitoto College athletes represented our school with immense pride, respect, courage and integrity, and achieved excellent results, with over 100 students participating across multiple sports and venues. We had the following highlights from the week:

Wrestling

18 of our wrestlers represented our school at the NZSS Wrestling Championships during Winter Tournament Week. It was a long, demanding day, starting early in the morning and running well into the evening. Every single wrestler represented us with outstanding pride and grit. On the mats, as in life, you either win or you learn. Our athletes took away invaluable experience and learnings. A massive congratulations to everyone who competed, stepped up and placed on the podium!

Boys Basketball

The Premier Boys delivered a standout performance at the AA Premierships Tournament (Qualifiers), securing a fantastic 8th-place finish. What makes this result truly special is that they were the only team outside the premier grade to break into the top 8—a testament to the incredible heart, grit and mana of this squad. After entering the tournament with high confidence, adversity hit hard. By the end of Day 2, three players were sidelined with severe injuries, leaving the remaining crew to push through the final days carrying their own share of bumps and bruises. Working with a very short bench, the team played with relentless courage and immense pride for the Rangitoto College crest.

Girls Basketball

Our Premier Girls have put together an outstanding campaign, finishing 3rd overall in the regular Premier College competition. They came agonisingly close to reaching the final after a hard-fought semi-final against St Kentigern, which just missed setting up a classic Rangitoto vs. Westlake decider. Despite coming up short in that match, the season has been packed with impressive growth and quality basketball. With qualification for Nationals officially secured, we couldn't be prouder of the team's trajectory and can't wait to cheer them on in a few weeks' time.

Football Boys

Our Premier Boys Football team enjoyed great success during the Rex Dawkins tournament. After finishing top of their pool with emphatic wins, they entered the knockout stages with a great deal of confidence. They went on to win their quarter final 1-0 over Kristin, before losing in a shoot out to King's College. The boys showed tremendous determination before finishing 4th.

Football Girls

The Football Girls were down in Taupo for the Premier National Tournament and had a positive week of results. Finishing their pool play in 2nd place they drew a tough round of 16 draw against Baradene, losing in this one. The girls then showed great resilience and won all of their remaining games and only conceded two goals across their last three games. Eventually finishing 9th in the country after only losing two games the whole week!

Weightlifters

Huge congratulations to our Rangitoto College weightlifters for an outstanding set of results at the New Zealand Secondary School Championships! Our team put on a massive display of strength, bringing home five medals across the competition.

Golf



Our golfers showed incredible grit under pressure over the weekend, battling elite competition and freezing conditions to secure 3rd place in a nail-biting finish. Despite the bitter cold, Rangitoto was the most consistent team on the course, backing up Sunday's 148 with a stellar 147 on Monday.

With King's, Burnside, and Rangitoto paired in the final three groups, the tension stretched all the way to the 18th green. King's mounted a serious late charge, but our players matched them shot-for-shot, closing with crucial pars and a clutch birdie in the final group to hold onto 3rd place by a single point.

Girls Hockey

These girls represented the school with pride both on and off the turf coming away with some incredible results throughout the week. Flying under the radar, our girls played hard, were so determined and gave each game 110 %.

It was an incredible achievement in itself to reach the Federation Cup for the first time since 2017, but the girls didn't stop there. After some nail-biting games going to penalty shootouts the team achieved Rangitoto Girls hockey's best result since 2010, coming 4th in the country.



Boys Hockey

Congratulations to our Hockey 1XI Boys team, who finished runners-up at the Mayhill Cup during Winter Tournament Week. After some fantastic results and hard-fought battles throughout the season in the Premier Grade, the boys were focused and ready for the tournament. It was a fantastic week where the boys consistently showed their strength, coming away with many dominant scorelines. In the final, the boys came up against Sacred Heart College, who they had many close battles with during the season. It was yet another close game throughout, with a few key moments deciding the game, with the boys going down 2–1. This result has promoted the boys to the NZSS Rankin Cup, which has been a key goal this team has been working towards.

Badminton

We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievement of our Premier Badminton Boys and Girls teams who have come away with two National Titles!



Impressively the girls have gone back to back and in doing so did not drop a single point during the entire tournament. The boys team came back from last year finishing 3rd, to only drop two points during the entire week to take the gold medal. Well done on a dominant performance across the week!

Rock Climbing



Congratulations to Qilu (Stig) Zhuo from Rangitoto College for taking Gold in the Junior Boys division at the NZSS Climbing Cup! Stig delivered an incredible two-day bouldering performance at Beta Climbing Gym—topping the qualifying rounds with a score of 75 and holding strong through the finals to claim 1st place overall.

Great work representing Rangitoto College on the national stage!

We would like to also congratulate and thank all of the Year 13 students who have played their last game for Rangitoto College. For a lot of them they have played five years of sport for the school and represented our Premier teams for a number of years. Thank you all for your service to our sporting community and for demonstrating pride and excellence when representing the school. We wish you all the best on your next sporting journey.

New Student Board Representative



We are delighted to congratulate Tianyi Lu on her appointment as the new Student Representative on the Rangitoto College School Board.

A passionate Year 11 student, viola player, and tap dancer, Tianyi brings a rich variety of experiences to her new role. She has already demonstrated exceptional leadership across several facets of school life, serving as a Chinese Leadership Team member, Hospice and Red Cross Club Leader, Maths Competition Club Leader, and Viola Section Leader.

Please join us in congratulating Tianyi and wishing her the very best as she begins her governance journey representing the Rangitoto College student body.

Lost Property

We are currently overflowing with items waiting to be reunited with their owners - jackets, water bottles, lunchboxes, sports gear, jewellery, and pencil cases. All lost property can be collected by the students from the courier room, accessible from the auditorium foyer at the following collection times:

- Before school: 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM
- Interval and lunch: 11:05 AM – 11:30 AM & 1:35 PM – 2:15 PM
- After school: 3:20 PM – 3:30 PM

Students should check their inbox, as emails are sent directly to students when clearly named items are handed in. Please ensure full name and ID number is written on all personal items (especially uniform jackets, PE kit, and drink bottles). Unclaimed items will be donated to charity at the end of the term.

Kind regards,



Greg Thornton
Principal